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City of Troy Announces Inaugural ChowderFest **Event Set to Take Place on August 18th**

For Immediate Release
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(July 9, 2007- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian joined with local restaurateurs Monday morning, including Chef Larry Schepici from Tosca Grille, to announce that the City will host an Inaugural Troy ChowderFest this summer. The event will take place on August 18th along River Street in Troy.

The ChowderFest will take place in the area that has seen a tremendous amount of improvement in the last few years. Earmarked for the recently announced Hedley District, the City hopes that the ChowderFest can become an annual event and capitalize on the new energy of an area, much like the River Street Festival has done.

“Between the tremendous entertainment and restaurant establishments in this block like Ryan’s Wake, Jose Malone’s, Café Deli-icious, Brown’s Brewing, the River Street Café, and Revolution Hall, and the potential of the Hedley District, this portion of Troy has the change to become a destination area in the Capital District,” Tutunjian said. “By adding events like a ChowderFest to promote that excitement, it will only strengthen the chances of success in the area.”

The ChowderFest will take place just south of the hugely successful Troy Farmer’s Market. Chef Schepici said Monday that he believes the ChowderFest will be a huge success, having participated in similar events throughout the country. He said that teaming up with the Farmer’s Market will lead to better standards for the festival, and help promote a tremendous weekly destination.

“This event is a unique way to showcase the relationship between our local farms and our talented local chefs,” Schepici said. “Utilizing produce from these farms is a stipulation for the ChowderFest, but it’s a rule we’re embracing. With this event, we want to prove to the community and surrounding areas that Troy has the best farmers market in the Northeast, and a rich history as a destination for great food and culture.”

Tutunjian credited Schepici with having the energy and enthusiasm to approach the City about creating such an event.

“In the last few years, we have had some wonderful restaurants open in the City of Troy, and they go along great with the fabulous eateries that are already here,” Tutunjian said. “Chef Larry had this idea to start a ChowderFest, and we believe it will be a great time and be very successful. Events like this take a tremendous amount of hard work, and people willing to make it happen. Those are specialties in the City of Troy.”

Approximately one dozen restaurants have already pledged to participate in the ChowderFest, though Schepici said organizers are looking for additional participants. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 18th, and include entertainment for the entire family.

The ChowderFest contest will be judged by a panel of local celebrities to be announced in the coming weeks.

For those interested in participating in the event, please contact Jill Kavanagh at 272-3013 or e-mail her at jill@toscagrille.com